

*Article XLVIII-B, Tuition Assistance Plan***ARTICLE XLVIII-B  
TUITION ASSISTANCE PLAN**

**Section 1. Establishment:** Effective April 1, 2002, the parties shall establish a new benefit program to be called the NFL Player Tuition Assistance Plan. The Plan will provide up to \$15,000 per League year as reimbursement for tuition, fees, and books to any player who earns an average of "C" or better per semester at an eligible educational institution within the meaning of Section 529(e)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code. A written plan that qualifies as an educational assistance program under Section 127 of the Internal Revenue Code will be established, and benefits to a player in any calendar year will be paid through such educational assistance program up to the maximum exclusion amount of Section 127 of the Internal Revenue Code, to minimize the tax burden on players. Benefits in excess of the maximum exclusion of Section 127 of the Internal Revenue Code in any calendar year will be subject to wage withholdings. To be eligible for reimbursement, fees must be associated with the course or courses taken, and no more than \$400 in fees will be reimbursed for any semester. The Plan Year for the Tuition Assistance Plan will begin on April 1.

**Section 2. Eligibility:** To be eligible for reimbursement in any League Year, the player must have earned at least one Credited Season prior to the beginning of an academic year and (i) be on the Active, Inactive, or Reserve/Injured roster for the first game of the NFL regular season for reimbursement for the Fall semester during that NFL season, or (ii) be on the Active, Inactive, or Reserve/Injured roster for the last game of the NFL regular season for reimbursement for any other semester during that academic year.

**Section 3. Reimbursement:** An eligible player will be reimbursed by no more than seventy five (75) days after the player submits a certified transcript from the eligible educational institution for that semester, and receipts demonstrating payment for tuition, fees, or books.

\*Extension Agreement 1/8/02

## Article XLIX, Group Insurance

## ARTICLE XLIX

### GROUP INSURANCE

**Section 1. Group Insurance Benefits:** Players will receive group insurance benefits, consisting of life insurance, medical, and dental benefits, as follows:

(a) **Life Insurance:** For the 2002-06 League Years, a rookie player will be entitled to \$150,000 in coverage, and a veteran player's coverage will be increased by \$30,000 for each Credited Season (as defined by the Bert Bell/Pete Rozelle Plan) up to a maximum of \$300,000 in coverage.

(b) **Medical:** *Until and including August 31, 2002, each player is required to pay an annual deductible of \$200 per individual per plan year and \$400 per family per plan year, with a maximum out-of-pocket expense of \$800 per plan year (including the deductible) for each covered individual. Effective September 1, 2002, each player is required to pay an annual deductible of \$400 per individual per plan year and \$800 per family per plan year, with an maximum out-of-pocket expense of \$1600 (including the deductible) for each covered individual. Effective March 1, 2002,*

1) *the co-insurance paid by a covered individual for services rendered by out-of-network providers will change from 20% of covered charges to 30% of covered charges; and*

2) *the amount paid by a covered individual for non-compliance with pre-certification and emergency admission procedures will be \$500 and the reimbursement paid to the covered individual for such services shall be reduced by 50%; and*

3) *a prescription drug card will be provided to covered individuals requiring a \$5 co-pay for generic drugs and a \$10 co-pay for brand name drugs if the generic or brand name drugs are obtained from participating pharmacies. The availability of participating pharmacies will not be significantly reduced below the level initially provided by CIGNA.*

4) *Notwithstanding the effective date stated above, the maximum lifetime benefits paid on behalf of a covered individual will be \$2.5 million effective September 9, 2001.*

(c) **Dental:** Usual, customary and reasonable ("UCR") dental expenses for all players and their eligible dependents will be reimbursed to players pursuant to the following schedule:

- 1) Preventive care paid at 100% of UCR,
- 2) General services paid at 85% of UCR, and
- 3) Major services paid at 50% of UCR.

Each player is required to pay an annual deductible of \$50 per individual per plan year and \$100 per family per plan year. The maximum benefit payable is \$2,000 per covered individual per plan year.

(d) **Insurance Benefits for Vested Players:** Players vested under the Bert Bell/Pete Rozelle Plan who are released or otherwise sever employment on or before May 1 in a calendar year will continue to receive insurance cov-

## Article XLIX, Group Insurance

erage under this Article until the first regular season game of the season that begins later in that calendar year. Players vested under the Bert Bell/Pete Rozelle Plan who are released or otherwise sever employment after May 1 in a calendar year will continue to receive insurance coverage under this Article until the first regular season game of the season that begins in the following calendar year. Group insurance benefits are guaranteed during the term of this Agreement unless reduced by the NFLPA pursuant to Article XLVI (Player Benefit Costs), Section 1, or required to be modified by law.

(e) **Family Medical and Dental Coverage for Deceased Players:** A player's enrolled dependents (including a child born to the player's wife within ten months after the player's death) shall be entitled to continuing family medical and dental insurance coverage effective August 1, 2001, as follows:

1) for the dependents of a player on the Active, Inactive, Reserve/Injured, Reserve/PUP, or Practice Squad roster at the time of the player's death, coverage will continue for the length of time the player would have been covered had his contract been terminated on the date of his death for any reason other than death;

2) for dependents of a player who was receiving coverage under Section 1(d), 2(c), or 2(d) of this Article at the time of his death, coverage will continue for the remaining length of time that the player would have been eligible under such Section had his death not occurred.

\*Extension Agreement 1/8/02

**Section 2. Extended Post-Career Medical And Dental Insurance:** The medical and dental insurance benefits described in Section 1 of this Article XLIX are continued, subject to limitations described in Section 3 below, as follows:

(a)-(b) [no longer applicable]

(c) Players vested under the Bert Bell/Pete Rozelle Plan who are released or otherwise sever employment at any time after the first regular season game in the 1998 season and before the first regular season game of the 2002 season will continue to receive the benefits described in Subsections 1(b) and 1(c) above for thirty-six (36) months beyond the date the benefits described in Subsections 1(b) and 1(c) above terminate in accordance with Section 1(d) of this Article.

(d) Players vested under the Bert Bell/Pete Rozelle Plan who are released or otherwise sever employment at any time during or after the first regular season game in the 2002 season or at any time thereafter prior to the expiration or termination of this Agreement will continue to receive the benefits described in Subsections 1(b) and 1(c) above for forty-eight (48) months beyond the date the benefits described in Subsections 1(b) and 1(c) above terminate in accordance with Subsection 1(d) of this Article.

(e) All rights under federal law of the players and their spouses and dependents to elect COBRA continuation coverage will commence upon the expiration or termination of the period in which the benefits described

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in Subsections 2(a), 2(b), and 2(c) above are provided, as if such additional benefits had not been provided.

(f) The costs for the benefits described in this Section during the 2001 and subsequent League Years will be charged as Benefits pursuant to Article XXIV (Guaranteed League-wide Salary, Salary Cap & Minimum Team Salary), Section 1(b).

\* Extension Agreement 1/8/02

**Section 3. Limitations And Rules For Extended Insurance:** Certain limitations and rules for the benefits described in Section 2 above will apply as follows:

(a) The benefits described in Subsections 2(c) and 2(d) above will terminate immediately upon the expiration or termination of this Agreement, for individuals eligible for benefits under this Section, including, without limitation, those who have already been released or otherwise severed employment at the time of such expiration or termination.

(b) The benefits described in Section 2 above will not be provided to employees of the NFL or an NFL Club who are eligible for group insurance by reason of such employment.

(c) The benefits described in Section 2 above will be secondary to any other health plan or program for health services (for the player or his spouse and dependents) to the extent permitted by state or federal law.

(d) The obligation in the aggregate of the Clubs to provide the benefits described in Section 2 above is limited to, in the 1999 and each subsequent League Year, the costs for such benefits up to \$500,000 multiplied by the number of Clubs in the League that League Year.

**Section 4. [no longer applicable]**

**Section 5. Administration:** The Management Council will assume administrative responsibility for group insurance benefits. The NFLPA will have the right to veto for cause any insurance company or other entity selected by the NFL or the Management Council to provide benefits under this Article. Reasons justifying such a veto for cause include, but are not limited to, excessive cost, poor service, or insufficient financial reserves. The parties agree to review and consider the most cost efficient manner to provide the coverage described in this Article. Upon request by the NFLPA, the Management Council will promptly provide the NFLPA with any document or other information relating to group insurance, including materials relating to experience and costs.

## ARTICLE L SEVERANCE PAY

**Section 1. Eligibility:** Only players with two or more Credited Seasons (as that term is defined in the Bert Bell/Pete Rozelle Plan), at least one of which is for a season occurring in 1993 through 2006, will be eligible for severance pay under this Article. Except as provided in Section 8, this Article will not extinguish or affect any other rights that a player may have to any other severance pay.

**Section 2. Amount:** Each eligible player will receive severance pay in the amounts determined as follows: (a) \$5,000 per Credited Season for each of the seasons 1989 through 1992; (b) \$10,000 per Credited Season for each of the seasons 1993 through 1999; (c) \$12,500 per Credited Season for each of the seasons 2000 through 2006.

*\* Extension Agreement 1/8/02*

**Section 3. Application:** To apply for severance pay under this Article, a player must submit a request in writing to the NFL Club that he was under contract with when he earned his last Credited Season, with copies to the Executive Director of the NFLPA and the Executive Vice President for Labor Relations of the NFL. His request must indicate his intention to permanently sever employment with all NFL Clubs as an Active Player.

**Section 4. Payment:** Severance pay under this Article will be paid in a single lump sum payment by the NFL Club with which the player last earned a Credited Season according to the following schedule:

LAST LEAGUE PLAYING ACTIVITY (AS DETERMINED BY ROSTER)	IF APPLY NO LATER THAN	PAYMENT DATE
The date of the first regular season game of that player's Club through League Week 8, or earlier	March 1	March 31
League Week 9 through <i>the end of the League Year, or earlier</i>	June 1	June 30
<i>The beginning of the League Year through May 31, or earlier</i>	September 1	September 30
June 1 through the date immediately preceding the date of the first regular season game of that player's Club, or earlier	December 1	December 31

Article L, Severance Pay

**Section 5. Failure to Apply:** A player who has not applied for severance pay under this Article within twenty (20) months of his last participation in NFL football playing activities will be deemed to have applied under this Article as of the expiration date of such twenty (20) month period.

**Section 6. Only One Payment:** Any player who returns to NFL football after receiving a severance payment under this Article will not be entitled to any further severance pay.

**Section 7. Payable to Survivor:** In the event a player eligible to receive severance pay under this Article dies before receiving such pay, the player's designated beneficiary (or his estate in the absence of a designated beneficiary) will be entitled to receive such pay on the later of (a) the next payment date following the date of the player's death, or (b) thirty (30) days after written notification of the player's death.

**Section 8. Prior Severance Pay:** Any player entitled to severance pay solely under the 1982 Collective Bargaining Agreement will receive his severance on March 31 or September 30 (instead of April 15 or the day after the third game of the NFL regular season), provided that such player complies with the procedure of the Settlement Agreement dated October 26, 1983.

**Section 9. Nonassignability:** The right to receive payment hereunder shall not be assignable, transferable or delegable, whether by pledge, creation of a security interest or otherwise, and in the event of any attempted assignment, transfer or delegation, the Clubs will have no liability to pay any amount so attempted to be assigned, transferred or delegated. Neither the NFL nor any NFL Clubs will have any obligation to verify other than to the NFLPA upon request the amount of severance pay a player may be entitled to receive, unless and until an application for pay is properly submitted by such player.

## Article LI, Supplemental Disability Benefits

## ARTICLE LI SUPPLEMENTAL DISABILITY BENEFITS

**Section 1. Maintenance:** The NFL Player Supplemental Disability Plan, and all past and future amendments thereto as adopted in accordance with the terms of that Plan, are incorporated by reference and made a part of this Agreement; provided, however, that the terms used in such Plan and the definitions of such terms are applicable only to such Plan and shall have no applicability to this Agreement unless the context of this Agreement specifically mandates the use of such term. Such Plan will be continued and maintained in full force and effect during the term of this Agreement.

**Section 2. Contributions:** For each Plan Year *in which the Salary Cap applies*, unless modified as described below, contributions will be made to the Supplemental Disability Plan at least quarterly in an amount sufficient to pay estimated benefits and administrative expenses. Contributions, if any, for later Plan Years will be determined pursuant to future collective bargaining agreements, if any. It will be the duty of the fiduciaries of the Supplemental Disability Plan to pursue all available legal remedies in an effort to ensure payment of all contributions due under this Agreement.

\*Extension Agreement 1/8/02

**Section 3. Extension:** For each Plan Year *in which the Salary Cap applies*, the parties will amend Section 3.1 of the NFL Player Supplemental Disability Plan at the beginning of such Plan Year to provide that a player receiving benefits under Section 5.1(a) of the Bert Bell/Pete Rozelle Plan will receive a benefit of \$14,670 per month for such Plan Year only; a player receiving benefits under Section 5.1(b) of the Bert Bell/Pete Rozelle Plan will receive a benefit of \$7,167 per month for such Plan Year only; and a player receiving benefits under Section 5.1(c) of the Bert Bell/Pete Rozelle Plan will receive a benefit of \$5,167 per month for such Plan Year only.

\*Extension Agreement 1/8/02

**Section 4. Automatic Payment and Waiver:** The parties will amend the Supplemental Disability Plan effective February 1, 2002 to provide that payments under the Supplemental Disability Plan will automatically be paid to all players who qualify for such benefits unless the qualifying player waives the right to receive such benefits. A player's waiver may be revoked, but not with respect to benefits that would have been paid prior to the revocation of his waiver.

\*Extension Agreement 1/8/02

## Article LII, Benefit Arbitrator

## ARTICLE LII BENEFIT ARBITRATOR

**Section 1. Selection:** The Management Council and the NFLPA will submit five candidates for Benefit Arbitrator to each other within two weeks of the ratification of this Agreement. If the parties are unable to agree on a Benefit Arbitrator from among the ten candidates submitted, a flip of the coin, no later than three weeks after ratification of the Agreement, will determine which party first strikes a name from the other party's list of candidates, and the parties will alternately strike names beginning within 24 hours of the coin flip and continuing for no more than a total of 24 hours until the parties are able to agree on the selection of the Benefit Arbitrator, or until only one candidate's name remains, which candidate will become the Benefit Arbitrator. If for any reason this procedure does not result in the selection of the Benefit Arbitrator within one month of the ratification of this Agreement, the Notice Arbitrator provided for in Article IX (Non-Injury Grievance), will appoint the Benefit Arbitrator of his or her choice within one week of written request by either party.

In the event of a subsequent vacancy in the position of Benefit Arbitrator, the procedure in this Section will be followed to fill the vacancy, substituting only the date of such vacancy for the date of ratification of this Agreement, and permitting the party who lost the prior coin flip to strike the first name from the other party's list of candidates. Either party may dismiss the Benefit Arbitrator between May 1 and June 1 of each calendar year of this Agreement by written notice to the Benefit Arbitrator and the other party.

**Section 2. Compensation:** To the extent that the fees and expenses of the Benefit Arbitrator are not properly charged to and paid by one of the employee benefit plans described or created by this Agreement, such fees and expenses will be divided equally between the parties.

**Section 3. Role:** The Benefit Arbitrator will resolve any and all disagreements relating to Articles XLVI through LI of this Agreement. However, disagreements relating to eligibility for pension, disability, or other benefits under the Bert Bell/Pete Rozelle Plan and disagreements relating to eligibility for disability benefits under the Supplemental Disability Plan will be resolved in accordance with the procedures that have previously been adopted by the Members of the Retirement Board of the Bert Bell/Pete Rozelle Plan for the resolution of such issues under that Plan, or such other procedures as may be jointly agreed upon by the parties. Also, prior to the merger of the Bert Bell Plan and the Pete Rozelle Plan, disagreements relating to eligibility for benefits under the Pete Rozelle Plan will be resolved in accordance with the procedures established under that Plan. The parties may jointly agree to enlarge or restrict the role of the Benefit Arbitrator. Ei-

## Article LII, Benefit Arbitrator

ther party may refer a matter to the Benefit Arbitrator by so notifying the Benefit Arbitrator and the other party. If no other provision in this Agreement governs the procedures for resolution of the dispute, the following procedures will apply. The parties will have two weeks to submit briefs or other documents to the Benefit Arbitrator. Thereafter, upon the request of either party, the Benefit Arbitrator will immediately convene an expedited hearing at the site of his or her selection. Such hearing will proceed for no more than three days, the first day of which will include whatever mediation efforts the Benefit Arbitrator deems appropriate; provided, however, that such mediation will not be binding on the parties. As soon as possible following the closing of such expedited hearing, the Benefit Arbitrator will render his or her decision, which will be final and binding on the parties. Post-hearing briefs following the close of such hearing will be permitted only if requested by the Benefit Arbitrator, and any post-hearing briefs so requested by the Benefit Arbitrator must be submitted within one week of the close of the hearing, with no extensions. The parties intend that post-hearing briefs will be requested only in unusual situations. In no event will the Benefit Arbitrator's decision be rendered and delivered to the parties any later than 60 days after a hearing is requested.

Article LIII, Retention of Benefits

**ARTICLE LIII**  
**RETENTION OF BENEFITS**

No financial benefit granted by any Club to its players (e.g., free shoes) in all of the 1990, 1991 and 1992 League Years may be reduced or eliminated during the term of this Agreement, unless compelling business reasons make continuation of the benefit financially impracticable.

## ARTICLE LIV WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**Section 1. Benefits:** In any state where workers' compensation coverage is not compulsory, a Club will either voluntarily obtain coverage under the compensation laws of that state or otherwise guarantee equivalent benefits to its players. In the event that a player qualifies for benefits under this section, such benefits will be equivalent to those benefits paid under the compensation law of the state in which his Club is located.

**Section 2. Rejection of Coverage:** Nothing in this Article is to be interpreted as preventing a Club that has the legal right to do so from rejecting coverage under the workers' compensation law of its state. However, if a Club elects to reject coverage under the compensation law of its state, it must nevertheless guarantee benefits to its players in the manner provided in Section 1 above. Moreover, any Club may be excluded from those laws if it elects to do so, but any such Club will be obligated to guarantee benefits to its players in the same manner provided in Section 1 above.

**Section 3. Arbitration:** In any state where a Club (e.g., Miami Dolphins/Florida) has legally elected not to be covered by the workers' compensation laws of that state, the equivalent benefit, if any, to which a player may be entitled under this Article will be determined under the grievance procedure of Article IX (Non-Injury Grievance).

**Section 4. Joint Study:** The parties agree to establish a joint committee comprised of three NFLPA appointees (plus advisors) and three NFLMC appointees (plus advisors) which will study and make recommendations concerning workers' compensation coverage of NFL players in the various states (and the District of Columbia) where NFL games are played. The committee will seek to find ways in which workers' compensation benefits can be provided to players in the most cost-effective manner possible. Written recommendations shall be provided by the committee to the NFLPA and the NFLMC on or before June 1, 1994. The NFLPA and NFLMC shall thereafter exercise their best efforts to implement the recommendations of the committee.

**Section 5. [no longer applicable]**

**Section 6. Preservation of Rights:** The NFLPA and the Clubs preserve their prior positions with regard to the legality of workers' compensation offset provisions under state law, and nothing in this Article shall prevent any player from claiming that an offset provision is not legally binding upon him or prevent any Club from asserting that an offset provision is legally binding upon a player. In addition, neither party nor members of the

Article LIV, Workers' Compensation

NFLPA's bargaining unit will claim that the other party's agreement to this Article or the revised NFL Player Contract appended hereto affects the rights set forth above.

**Section 7. Reopener:** If the parties do not reach agreement concerning future workers' compensation coverage of NFL players within sixty (60) days of the issuance of the committee recommendations pursuant to Section 4 above, then either party may reopen this Article upon the giving of ten (10) days written notice, and both parties will have an obligation to resume negotiations limited to the issue of workers' compensation, and both parties will be free to engage in whatever concerted or other action may be permitted by law in support of their positions.

## ARTICLE LV MISCELLANEOUS

**Section 1. Endorsements:** No Club may unreasonably refuse to permit a player to endorse a product.

**Section 2. On-Field Attire:** Neither the NFL nor any of the Clubs may have any rule prohibiting or limiting the type of footwear or gloves which may be worn by players on the field, except to the extent such rules or limitations are agreed to by the NFLPA.

**Section 3. Appearances:** No Club may unreasonably require a player to appear on radio or television.

**Section 4. Promotion:** The NFLPA will use its best efforts to ensure that the players cooperate with the Clubs and the news media in reasonable promotional activities on behalf of the Clubs and the NFL.

**Section 5. Deduction:** The involuntary deduction of amounts from any compensation due to a player for the purpose of compensating any Club personnel is prohibited.

**Section 6. Public Statements:** The NFLPA and the Management Council agree that each will use its best efforts to curtail public comments by Club personnel or players which express criticism of any club, its coach, or its operation and policy, or which tend to cast discredit upon a Club, a player, or any other person involved in the operation of a Club, the NFL, the Management Council, or the NFLPA.

**Section 7. Address:** The Management Council will furnish upon request to the NFLPA whatever address and telephone lists that Clubs have covering all players who are under contract to the Clubs as of October 1 for in-season information, and under contract to the Club as of January 1 for off-season information. The Management Council will not divulge player telephone numbers to the media or the public. As of the first preseason cut-down date, the Management Council will provide to the NFLPA employment dates for all players who are then under contract to the Clubs.

**Section 8. NFLPA Tickets:** Two (2) complimentary tickets will be made available to the NFLPA to permit attendance at each regularly scheduled League game by authorized NFLPA representatives. All Clubs will make their best efforts to make available two (2) additional tickets to the NFLPA for purchase. The NFLPA will provide a list of authorized persons to the Management Council. The NFLPA must notify the home Club of its desire

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to attend such a game at least three days prior to the date of the game. NFLPA representatives must possess appropriate identification.

**Section 9. Player Tickets:** Two (2) complimentary tickets will be made available to each player for each home game of his Club. Each player will be afforded the opportunity to purchase two (2) tickets for each away game of his Club from the best tickets available for public sale immediately prior to the public sale for each game. Each Club will provide players with the opportunity to purchase two (2) tickets to the Super Bowl game each year, subject to reasonable safeguards to avoid scalping of the tickets.

**Section 10. Tests:** No psychological or personality tests will be given to any player after he signs his first contract with an NFL Club. An Unrestricted Free Agent may agree to take a psychological or personality test if so requested by a Club interested in his services. A player is entitled to review the results of his psychological or personality tests upon request.

**Section 11. League Security:** A player will have the right, if he so requests, to have an NFLPA representative present during an interview by any representative of NFL Security if the player has a reasonable basis for believing that Commissioner discipline might result from the interview.

**Section 12. Career Planning Program:** The parties will use best efforts to establish an in-depth, comprehensive Career Planning Program. The purpose of the program will be to help players enhance their career in the NFL and make a smooth transition to a second career. The program will also provide information to players on handling their personal finances, it being understood that players shall be solely responsible for their personal finances.

**Section 13. Delivery of Documents:** The NFL, its Clubs, the Management Council, and the NFLPA shall, upon request therefore by any party hereto, execute and deliver such further documents and instruments and take such further steps as are reasonably necessary and appropriate to implement and effectuate the purposes of this Agreement.

**Section 14. Binding Effect:** This Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties hereto and their heirs, executors, administrators, representatives, agents, successors and assigns and any corporation into or with which any corporate party hereto may merge or consolidate.

**Section 15. Authorization:** The Management Council represents that it has been duly authorized to enter into and to execute this Agreement on behalf of itself and its members. The NFLPA hereby represents that it has

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been duly authorized to execute this Agreement on behalf of its members.

**Section 16. Headings:** The headings in this Agreement are solely for the convenience of the attorneys for the parties, and shall not be deemed part of, or considered in construing or interpreting this Agreement.

**Section 17. Time Periods:** The specification of any time period in this Agreement shall include any non-business days within such period, except that any deadline falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal Holiday shall be deemed to fall on the following business day.

**Section 18. Exhibits:** All of the Exhibits hereto are an integral part of this Agreement and of the agreement of the parties thereto.

**Section 19. Parol Evidence:** The parties shall not, in any proceeding or otherwise, use or refer to any parol evidence with regard to the interpretation or meaning of Articles I, XIV, XVI-XXI, XXIV-XXX, XXXVIII-A, XXXVIII-B, and LVI-LVIII of this Agreement. None of the Articles of this Agreement may be changed, altered or amended other than by a written agreement.

*\*Extension Agreement 1/8/02*

Article LVI, Final League Year

## **ARTICLE LVI FINAL LEAGUE YEAR**

All of the provisions of this Agreement shall be the same in the Final League Year of this Agreement, except that the following rules shall apply only in that League Year:

**Section 1. No Salary Cap:** No Salary Cap shall be in effect during the Final League Year.

**Section 2. Free Agency If Salary Cap In League Year Prior To Final League Year:** In the event that a Salary Cap is in effect in the League Year prior to the Final League Year: (a) the number of Accrued Seasons required to be an Unrestricted Free Agent during the Final League Year shall be six or more Accrued Seasons; and (b) the provisions of Article XIX (Veteran Free Agency), Sections 2-4, shall apply to any player with five Accrued Seasons in the Final League Year, as if such player had four Accrued Seasons, except that the Qualifying Offers specified in Article XIX (Veteran Free Agency), Section 2(b)(ii) shall be \$50,000 greater for the Qualifying Offers originally stated to be \$325,000, and \$100,000 greater for the Qualifying Offers originally stated to be \$700,000 or \$900,000, subject to any additional increases in the base amounts in accordance with the rules set forth in Article XIX (Veteran Free Agency), Section 2(e).

**Section 3. Free Agency If No Salary Cap In League Year Prior To Final League Year:** In the event that a Salary Cap is not in effect in the League Year prior to the Final League Year, the number of Accrued Seasons required to be an Unrestricted Free Agent during the Final League Year shall be five Accrued Seasons.

**Section 4. Franchise and Transition Players:** As set forth in Article XX (Franchise and Transition Players), Section 3, each Club shall be permitted to designate one Unrestricted Free Agent as a Transition Player between February 1 and February 15, in the Final League Year, notwithstanding that Transition Players may not be designated in the League Years after the 1994 League Year (except as provided in Article XX (Franchise and Transition Players), Sections 3(a) and 11).

## Article LVII, Mutual Reservation of Rights: Labor Exemption

**ARTICLE LVII**  
**MUTUAL RESERVATION OF RIGHTS:**  
**LABOR EXEMPTION**

**Section 1. Rights Under Law:** Subject to the provisions of this Article, upon the expiration or termination of this Agreement, no Party (as defined in Article XVIII (Mutual Reservation of Rights; Labor Exemption), paragraph 1, of the Settlement Agreement) nor any member of the collective bargaining unit shall be deemed to have waived, by reason of the Settlement Agreement or this Agreement or the settlement and dismissal of other actions, or the entry into or effectuation of this Agreement or any Player Contract, or any of the terms of any of them, or by reason of any practice or course of dealing between or among any of the Parties, their respective rights under law with respect to the issues of whether any provision or practice authorized by this Agreement is or is not then a violation of the antitrust laws. Subject to the provisions of this Article, upon the expiration or termination of this Agreement or the Settlement Agreement, the Parties shall be free to make any available argument that any provision or practice authorized by this Agreement or the Settlement Agreement is or is not then a violation of the antitrust laws, or is or is not then entitled to any labor exemption.

**Section 2. Labor Exemption:** In effectuation of this Agreement, the Parties agree that the labor exemption from the antitrust laws applies during the express term of this Agreement and to any conduct of the NFL and the NFLPA taken in accordance with the terms of this Agreement during its express term.

**Section 3. CBA Expiration:**

(a) Following the expiration of the express term of this Agreement, then, if the NFLPA is in existence as a union, the Parties agree that none of the Class Members (as defined in the Settlement Agreement) nor any player represented by the NFLPA shall be able to commence an action, or assert a claim, under the antitrust laws for conduct occurring, until either: (i) the Management Council and NFLPA have bargained to impasse; or (ii) six months after such expiration, whichever is later; at that time, the Parties reserve any arguments they may make regarding the application of the labor exemption.

(b) The Parties agree that, after the expiration of the express term of this Agreement, in the event that at that time or any time thereafter a majority of players indicate that they wish to end the collective bargaining status of the NFLPA on or after expiration of this Agreement, the NFL and its Clubs and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, representatives, agents, successors and assigns waive any rights they may have to assert any antitrust labor exemption defense based upon any claim that the termination by the NFLPA of its status as a collective bargaining representative is or would be a sham, pretext, ineffective, requires additional steps, or has not in fact occurred.

## Article LVIII, Duration of Agreement

## ARTICLE LVIII

### DURATION OF AGREEMENT

**Section 1. Effective Date:** Except as specifically provided otherwise in this Agreement, this Agreement shall be effective upon ratification by the NFLPA in accordance with its internal procedures. Upon ratification by the NFLPA, Articles I, XIV, XVI-XXI, XXIV-XXX and LVI-LVIII shall be deemed effective as of March 29, 1993. With respect to the 1998 amendments to this Agreement, those amendments shall be effective upon the execution of those amendments, except that: (i) the 1998 amendments with respect to the Entering Player Pool and the amount of the Salary Cap shall be effective as of the first day of the 1998 League Year; and (ii) the parties may agree upon transition rules implementing the terms of the 1998 amendments, which transition rules shall be effective as of such dates as are agreed to by the parties. *With respect to the 2002 amendments to this Agreement, those amendments shall be deemed effective as of the last game of the 2001 regular season, except for the benefits which are specified to go into effect beginning in the 2002 League Year.*

\* Extension Agreement 1/8/02

**Section 2. Expiration Date:** Except as provided in Section 3 below, this Agreement shall be effective from the date hereof and shall continue in full force and effect until the last day of the 2007 League Year, except for the provisions relating to the Draft, Article XVI (College Draft), which shall expire in the League Year immediately following the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

\* Extension Agreement 1/8/02

**Section 3. Termination Prior to Expiration Date:**

(a)-(b) [no longer applicable]

(c) **Provision Invalidated.** If at any time after Court Approval during the term of this Agreement, any provision of this Agreement is enjoined, declared null and void, rendered unenforceable or otherwise invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction, and such court's order having become final and all appeals through the Court of Appeals having been exhausted, the provision in question shall be severed from the Agreement, and the remainder of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect. Notwithstanding anything in this Subsection (c), either the NFL or the NFLPA shall have the right to terminate this Agreement if one or more of the following provisions is rendered invalid, null and void, or unenforceable: Articles XVI (College Draft), XIX (Veteran Free Agency), XXIV (Guaranteed League-wide Salary, Salary Cap & Minimum Team Salary), LVI (Final League Year), XXVI-II (Anti-Collusion), and LVII (Mutual Reservation of Rights; Labor Exemption). If either the NFL or the NFLPA wishes to exercise its option to terminate, it may do so by serving upon the other parties written notice of ter-

## Article LVIII, Duration of Agreement

mination within 30 days of the date of such determination and any appeals relating thereto.

(d) **Termination Due To Collusion.** If at any time the conditions of Article XXVIII (Anti-Collusion), Section 16(a), (b) or (c) are satisfied, the NFLPA shall have the right to terminate this Agreement. To execute such a termination, the NFLPA shall serve upon the NFL written notice of termination within thirty days after the Special Master's report finding the requisite conditions becomes final and any appeals therefrom to the District Court have been exhausted. The Parties agree, however, that such termination shall be stayed if any Party appeals such finding to the Court of Appeals. All Parties agree to seek and accept expedited review in any appeal of a collusion determination, with all the procedural limitations thereof. Thirty days after any expedited review by the Court of Appeals, and in the absence of a stay by the U.S. Supreme Court within ten days thereof, the termination shall be effective, unless the Parties agree otherwise. The Parties shall confer in person or by telephone during the thirty-day period to attempt to resolve the dispute.

(e) **Termination After Closing Date.** If the Settlement Agreement is terminated after the Closing Date (as defined in the Settlement Agreement), the rules set forth in Article XXVI (Termination Prior to Expiration Date), paragraph 6 of the Settlement Agreement, apply.

(f) **No Waiver.** Any failure of the NFL, the NFLPA or Class Counsel to exercise its right to terminate this Agreement with respect to any League Year in accordance with this Article shall not be deemed a waiver of or in any way impair or prejudice any right of any such party, if any, to terminate this Agreement in accordance with this Article with respect to any succeeding League Year.

**Section 4. Ratification:** This Agreement is subject to ratification by the NFLPA and the Management Council in accordance with their internal procedures before it becomes effective. In the event of failure of ratifications by either party, then this Agreement will not become effective and neither party, nor any of its members, will possess or assert any claim whatsoever against the other party because of the failure of ratification of this Agreement.

Article LIX, Governing Law

**ARTICLE LIX**  
**GOVERNING LAW**

To the extent that federal law does not govern the implementation of this Agreement, this Agreement shall be construed and interpreted under, and shall be governed by, the laws applicable to contracts made and performed in the State of New York.

Article IX, Notices

## ARTICLE IX NOTICES

Any notice to be given under the terms of this Agreement whose method is not otherwise specified herein shall be given in writing by hand-delivery and first-class prepaid mail addressed as follows:

- (a) To the National Football League Management Council:  
The National Football League  
Management Council  
280 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10017  
Attention: Executive Vice President—Labor Relations
- (b) To an NFL Club:  
At the principal address of such Club as then listed on the records of the NFL or at that Club's principal office.  
Attention: President
- (c) To the NFLPA:  
National Football League Players Association  
2021 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Attention: General Counsel

or to such other persons or addresses as the parties hereto may designate in writing.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

BY: 

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

BY: 

Appendix A

**APPENDIX A**

**CHECK-OFF AUTHORIZATION FOR  
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYERS  
ASSOCIATION DEDUCTIONS**

I hereby authorize and direct my present club, or any other National Football League club by which I may be employed as a player in the future to deduct from my salary and to pay the National Football League Players Association any initiation fees, annual membership dues, or the required service fee, in the amounts from time to time certified by the National Football League Players Association to the club as properly authorized for each year of the operation of this authorization.

I direct that the initiation fee and the annual dues be deducted beginning on the 30th day following the beginning of my employment as a player in the National Football League.

I direct that the annual service fee in the same amount as any initiation fee and the annual dues required of members of the National Football League Players Association be deducted on the 30th day following the beginning of my employment as a player in the National Football League.

The foregoing authorized deductions are to be checked-off in equal weekly or biweekly installments from each preseason and regular season pay check, beginning with the first pay check after the date of the first pre-season squad cutdown. The club will forward such deductions within seven days of each check-off to the National Football League Players Association, 2021 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

This check-off authorization is irrevocable for a period of one year or until the expiration date of the currently effective collective bargaining agreement between the National Football League Players Association, the National Football League Management Council and the Member Clubs of the National Football League, whichever date occurs first, and I agree and direct that this authorization shall be automatically renewed and shall be irrevocable for successive periods of one year each or for the period of each succeeding collective bargaining agreement between the National Football League Players Association, the National Football League Management Council and the Member Clubs of the National Football League, whichever shall be shorter, unless written notice is given by me to the National Football League Players Association and the club not more than twenty (20) and not less than ten (10) days prior to the expiration of each period of one year or of each collective bargaining agreement between the National Football League Players Association, the National Football League Management

Appendix A

Council and the Member Clubs of the National Football League, whichever occurs sooner.

Date:

Signature

Player's Name—Type or Print

Appendix B

**APPENDIX B**

**INJURY PROTECTION/EARLY WAIVER**

With regard to the last sentence of Section 1, Article X, of the March 1, 1977 Collective Bargaining Agreement, it was agreed that a player who qualifies for "Injury Protection" under subsections (a) and (b) may be waived prior to being given a preseason physical examination, but the waiving Club would retain "Injury Protection" liability unless and until the player signed a contract with and passed the physical examination of another NFL Club. In other words, a Club cannot evade "Injury Protection" liability by early waiving.

**APPENDIX C****NFL PLAYER CONTRACT**

THIS CONTRACT is  
between \_\_\_\_\_,  
hereinafter "Player," and \_\_\_\_\_, a

corporation (limited partnership) (partnership), hereinafter "Club," operating under the name of the \_\_\_\_\_ as a member of the National Football League, hereinafter "League." In consideration of the promises made by each to the other, Player and Club agree as follows:

1. **TERM.** This contract covers \_\_\_\_\_ football season(s), and will begin on the date of execution or March 1, \_\_\_\_\_, whichever is later, and end on February 28 or 29, \_\_\_\_\_, unless extended, terminated, or renewed as specified elsewhere in this contract.

2. **EMPLOYMENT AND SERVICES.** Club employs Player as a skilled football player. Player accepts such employment. He agrees to give his best efforts and loyalty to the Club, and to conduct himself on and off the field with appropriate recognition of the fact that the success of professional football depends largely on public respect for and approval of those associated with the game. Player will report promptly for and participate fully in Club's official mandatory minicamp(s), official preseason training camp, all Club meetings and practice sessions, and all preseason, regular season and postseason football games scheduled for or by Club. If invited, Player will practice for and play in any all-star football game sponsored by the League. Player will not participate in any football game not sponsored by the League unless the game is first approved by the League.

3. **OTHER ACTIVITIES.** Without prior written consent of the Club, Player will not play football or engage in activities related to football otherwise than for Club or engage in any activity other than football which may involve a significant risk of personal injury. Player represents that he has special, exceptional and unique knowledge, skill, ability, and experience as a football player, the loss of which cannot be estimated with any certainty and cannot be fairly or adequately compensated by damages. Player therefore agrees that Club will have the right, in addition to any other right which Club may possess, to enjoin Player by appropriate proceedings from playing football or engaging in football-related activities other than for Club or from engaging in any activity other than football which may involve a significant risk of personal injury.